

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The case was filed with claims 1-6, claim 1 being independent. This amendment amends originally filed claim 1 and adds new claims 7-10, 7 and 9 being independent.

The Official Action objected to the abstract.

Responsively, the abstract has been amended.

The Official Action objected to the disclosure due to formalities.

Responsively, the specification has been amended to address the noted informalities.

The Official Action objected to the title of the invention.

The title of the invention has been amended to that suggested by the Official Action.

There are no other formal matters outstanding.

Claims 1-6 stand rejected as obvious over Applicant's disclosed prior art in view of PASTERNAK et al. 5,648,969.

Pasternak, et al. column 6, lines 35-54 is used by the Official Action as the basis for concluding that the original claims were obvious.

In this passage, Pasternak, et al. disclose an example of a VPI/VCI table for automatic updating (Figure 10). The first

column shows VPI/VCi (hexadecimal format). The second column shows service class as assigned manually or automatically, where unassigned VPI/VCi are marked as class F meaning no connection for a long period of time.

The third column represents a time stamp, which time stamp is periodically incremented. When the corresponding VPI/VCi cell is read, the time stamp is reset. In other words, each time a cell is read, its time stamp is reset. Thus, the time stamp indicates how long the cell has gone without being read.

In the time stamp column, an FF represents an expired, or never encountered connection. One disclosed strategy is to erase expired connections in order to ease tracking to the active connections. That is, to keep a rather small table of, e.g., up to 256 rows with active connections.

The teachings of this passage appear straight forward. A central table for all VPI/VCi is used to track activity of each individual VPI/VCi.

In this regard, Pasternak et al. concerns transmitting signals in a distributed ATM environment comprising ATM switches at a point of presence 14 (Figure 1; column 3, lines 14 et seq.).

From the ATM switches data converted to ATM cells are passed to radio units (RUs) for transmission. See, e.g., Figures 2-3 and column 3, lines 30-59.

Figure 4 shows an embodiment including a fat flow through bus 46 (column 4, lines 46-49). Beginning at line 50, it is disclosed that at this transmission side, there is provided a VPI/VCI look-up table stored in memory. See that dropped cells are not retransmitted to the next network node but instead are replaced by an idle cell. Cells in queue are transmitted when an idle cell is encountered, i.e., replacing the idle cell. In this way, the teaching of the reference is to ensure fair distribution of bandwidth for packet transmit opportunity. See column 4, lines 58-61.

See Figure 8 using the VPI/VCI table to determine cell service type. Then, service is applied based on the determined cell service type. Finally, cells are transmitted by service type.

The passage cited by the Official Action (column 6, lines 35-54) should be considered in light of the system disclosed by the reference. As seen from the above, this passage concerns updating a VPI/VCI table to reflect activity on the transmission side so as to allocate service for cell transmission. See again that the first column shows VPI/VCI values. The second column shows service class. The third column represents an "elapsed-time" time stamp. Recall that when the corresponding VPI/VCI cell is read, the time stamp is reset. In order words, each time a cell is read, its elapsed time stamp is

reset to zero. Thus, the time stamp indicates elapsed time since the cell has been read.

Cells with high elapsed time or time stamp values are clearly less active or are inactive.

When disclosing the strategy to erase expired connections, the teaching is stop tracking inactive connections in order to ease tracking to the active connections.

See that claim 1 recites the radio base station i) a first means **abandoning the transmission message signal when the transmission individual identifier is not coincident with the n-th station identifier**; and ii) resetting the first means after the first means continuing to abandon the transmission message signal for a predetermined time duration.

The reference teaches a central table for all VPI/VCI is used to track activity of each individual VPI/VCI.

The reference does not teach the VPI/VCI being assigned to individual base stations.

The reference does not teach the VPI/VCI values being changes as to any individual base station. The teaching is only to reset the time stamp and to set the service class (0, 1, 2 or F). Even though the time stamp is reset or a connection dropped as inactive, the VPI/VCI value is not changed.

There is no teaching in Pasternak et al. of using the VPI/VCI table (or value) in connection base station identifiers,

the base station identifiers being assigned and changeable. This is noted to illustrate that the setting/system for the teaching of the reference is not related to that of the system of the invention.

There is no teaching in the reference of a first means for comparing a transmission individual identifier with an n-th station identifier, as a test for abandoning transmission message signal when the transmission individual identifier is not coincident with the n-th station identifier.

There is no teaching in the reference of a second means making the first means become a reset state when said first means continues, for a predetermined time duration, to abandon the transmission message signal.

The reference teaches resetting a time stamp upon transmission activity. The reference teaches indicate a connection is no longer active after a long period of inactivity. Neither of these suggest that recited.

Reconsideration and allowance of claim 1 is therefore respectfully requested.

Allowance of the claims depending from independent claim 1 is also solicited.

Further, the newly added claims have been drafted so as to patentably recite the present invention. Accordingly, allowance of these claims is also solicited.

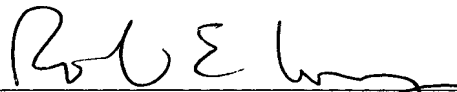
Applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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